NEW SYSTEM

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT, PAY, CLOATHING, PROVISIONS, &c. &c. &c.

OF THE ARMY;

ADDRESSED TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD NORTH.

BY AN OFFICER.

L' Infanterie va pour faire la Guerre,
La Cavalerie pour la voir.

LONDON,

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A

LETTER, &c.

My Lord,

AS the dominion of the Britiſh empire is very extenſive—As the obedience of our colonies is of an uncertain nature—As our neighbours the French do now maintain very numerous land forces in conſtant pay—As the faith of treaties is not always to be relied on—it is become unhappily neceſſary for this nation to have a large ſtanding army.

But as the nature of this country is ſo rough, broken, and uneven, ſo divided by rivers, ſo interſperſed with woods, hedges, and ditches, and is withal an iſland——

As it is contrary to the intereſt of the ſtate to expend any money in military operations on the continent of Europe.—

As our poſſeſſions in America and in the Weſt India iſlands are very remote.—As the nature of thoſe countries are either very mountainous, or filled with woods, precipices, deep ravines, broad, or rapid rivers, lakes immenſely large, and marſhes of a great extent, only a ſmall part being cleared and cultivated—As the poſſeſſions of the French and Spaniards in the Weſt India iſlands, and in South America, are alſo very remote, and are of a craggy, ſteep, rugged, and broken ſurface,—it appears, that in whatever part of the territories of theſe two nations it may be expedient to carry on a war, or in whatever part of our own dominions it may be neceſſary to defend ourſelves, the ſervice can only be effected by infantry.——Even allowing it to be practicable to tranſport a regiment of cavalry to America, ſuch a meaſure muſt be attended with an immenſe expence,

expence, and could not be of any utility: for there is ſcarce a ſpot of ground three miles extent from the river St. Lawrence to the Miſſiſippi, on which a regiment of cavalry could act with a probability of ſucceſs.

Such being the actual ſtate of our ſeveral poſſeſſions, and of thoſe of our natural enemies; it appears wiſe and expedient that ſuch troops only ſhould be employed by government as can anſwer one of theſe purpoſes; either to ſecure ourſelves when attacked, or to annoy our enemies when neceſſary to urge the attack.

It appears alſo both juſt and equitable, that all theſe troops ſhould be entitled to the ſame pay, clothing, and proviſions, be liable to the ſame duties, dangers, and fatigues.

As the cavalry cannot effect either of the above purpoſes—as the regiments of foot-guards do enjoy very ſuperior advantages to the other regiments of infantry, without

being liable to the more dangerous part of their duty, the frequent change of climate—

I beg leave humbly, yet fervently, to requeſt, that your Lordſhip will be pleaſed ſeriouſly to conſider the following propoſals:

That the gentlemen penſioners — the yeomen of the guard, except a ſerjeant and twelve of them—the troops of horſe and grenadier guards — all the regiments of horſe and dragoons, except four of light horſe—and the ſeven battalions of foot-guards, may be diſbanded.

That the inſtitution of Chelſea hoſpital may no longer be maintained; becauſe as many ſoldiers as receive a benefit by it, live in idleneſs and indolence, by which the ſociety loſes the advantage of their bodily labour.

That all the companies of invalids may be immediately diſcharged for the ſame reaſon.

That

That thirty-two regiments of infantry may be immediately raiſed, which will make the number of theſe uſeful corps one hundred and two; with leſs than which it is impoſſible to perform the ſeveral duties to which they are unavoidably ſubject.

That the ſoldier henceforth may be inliſted only for the term of ſeven years, which will prevent the continuance of the repeated deſertions that have lately prevailed among the troops of this nation.

That the eſtabliſhment of the numbers, pay, cloathing, and proviſions of each regiment of infantry; the general arrangement of the ſtations, and the mode of relief of the army, may be as hereunto annexed.

The circumſtances neceſſary to effect this deſirable revolution in the ſtate of the army are peculiarly favourable—

From the rebellious conduct of the Americans in the firſt inſtance; and in the latter,

ter, from the happineſs that this nation enjoys, in having a nobleman at the helm of affairs, who dares to adopt every meaſure which he thinks conducive to the intereſt of the ſtate.

I have the honour to be with the greateſt reſpect and eſteem,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt obedient

and humble ſervant

An OFFICER.

The

The Eſtabliſhment of a Regiment of Infantry in Time of Peace, and of the Daily Pay of Officers, Non-commiſſioned Officers, and Soldiers, to be given to them, free of all Deductions, except of one Day's Pay per Year from every Officer and Soldier, to be appropriated towards the Payment of the Penſions of ſuperannuated Soldiers, and for the Penſions of Officers Widows.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Colonel, per day,	2	14	0	2	14	0
Two lieutenant colonels, each	1	2	0	2	4	0
Ten captains, each	0	12	0	6	0	0
Twelve lieutenanants, each	0	6	0	3	12	0
Eight enſigns, each	0	5	0	2	0	0
Carried on				16	10	0

Adjutant

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward				16	10	0
Adjutant	—0	8	0	—0	8	0
Quarter-maſter	—0	8	0	—0	8	0
Pay-maſter	—0	3	0	—0	3	0
Surgeon	—0	10	0	—0	10	0
Two mates, each	—0	5	0	—0	10	0
The agent	—0	10	0	—0	10	0
Serjeant-major	—0	2	6	—0	2	6
Two drill ſerjeants, each	—0	1	3	—0	2	6
Ten quarter maſter ſerjeants, each	0	1	0	—0	10	0
Twenty ſerjeants, each	—0	0	9	—0	15	0
Twenty corporals, each	—0	0	6	—0	10	0
Twenty lance corporals, each	—0	0	5	—0	8	4
Three hundred and ſixty ſoldiers, each	—0	0	4	—6	0	0
Drum-major	—0	1	3	—0	1	3
Carried on				27	8	7

Ten

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	27	8	7
Ten drummers and ten fifers, each —0 0 4 —0 6 8			
Four armourers, each —0 0 9 —0 3 0			
To each captain, to repair the arms of his company —0 0 6 —0 5 0			
The daily pay of a reg. of infantry —28	3	3	

As the daily pay which I have propoſed to give to the non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers is not ſufficient to maintain them, it is abſolutely requiſite that government ſhould ſupply each of them with a ration of proviſions per day, gratis.

As a ration of proviſions ſhould conſiſt of a pound of flour or biſcuit, and of three quarters of a pound of freſh or ſalted beef, or of half a pound of ſalted pork and

of half a pound of rice; the value of which, on an average, cannot exceed four-pence farthing: as the number of men intitled to provisions is four hundred and fifty-eight.

The daily amount of these rations is	£.	8 10 9

The

The annual Expence of the Cloathing of a Regiment of Infantry, according to the Proportions as ſpecified oppoſite their reſpective Ranks.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To the cloathing of the ſerjeant-major,						
Viz. A cap and ornaments	1	1	0			
A coat —	1	11	6			
A waiſtcoat —	0	10	6			
A pair of breeches	0	10	6			
				3	13	6
To the cloathing of two drill ſerjeants,						
Viz. to each, A cap, &c.	0	15	0			
A coat —	1	1	0			
A waiſtcoat —	0	7	6			
A pair of breeches	0	7	6			
				5	3	0
Carried on				8	16	6

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	8	16	6

To the cloathing of thirty ſerjeants,

Viz.	£.	s.	d.
To each, A cap, &c.	0	10	6
A coat —	1	1	0
A waiſtcoat —	0	7	6
A pair of breeches	0	7	6
	69	15	0

To the cloathing of twenty corporals and twenty lance corporals,

Viz.			
To each, A cap, &c.	0	5	6
A coat —	0	15	0
An Epaulet —	0	1	0
A waiſtcoat —	0	5	0
A pair of breeches	0	5	0
	63	0	0
Carried on	141	11	6

To

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	141	11	6
To the cloathing of three hundred and ſixty ſoldiers,			
Viz. to each, A cap, &c.	0	3	0
A coat —	0	15	0
A waiſtcoat —	0	5	0
A pair of breeches	0	5	0
	504	0	0
To the cloathing of the drum-major,			
Viz. A cap &c.	1	1	0
A coat —	1	11	6
A waiſtcoat —	0	10	6
A pair of breeches	0	10	6
	3	13	6
To the cloathing of ten drummers and ten fifers,			
Viz. to each, A cap, &c.	0	10	0
A coat —	0	15	0
A waiſtcoat —	0	7	6
A pair of breeches	0	7	6
	40	0	0
Carried on	689	5	0

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	689	5	0
To the cloathing of four armourers, Viz. to each, A cap, &c. }	0	10	0
A coat —	0	15	0
A waiſtcoat —	0	7	6
A pair of breeches	0	7	6
	8	0	0
To four hundred and fifty-eight long cloaks, made of Scotch twill plaiding; being one to every non-commiſſioned officer and ſoldier. Each cloak at the expence of ſix ſhillings and ſixpence —	148	17	0
The annual expence of the cloathing of a regiment of infantry —	846	2	0

A Summary of the daily and annual Expence of a Regiment of Infantry. The annual Expence of all the Regiments of Infantry and Light Horſe, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
The daily pay of a regiment of infantry	28	4	1
The daily expence of proviſions	8	10	9
	36	14	10
Multiply this ſum by 365,			
The product will be	13,410	14	2
Add the annual expence of cloathing	856	2	0
The annual expence of a regiment	14,266	16	2
Multiply the annual expence by 102, being the number of regiments employed, the product will be	1,455,214	9	0

Add

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	1,455,214	9	0
Add the annual expence of four regiments of Light Horse, each at twelve thousand pounds	48,000	0	0
The annual expence of the army, exclusive of contingencies, and of the battalions of artillery,	1,503,214	9	0

Scotland,

Scotland, Ireland, the Weſt India Iſlands, and America ought to contribute their proportion to the ſupport of the army.

AS it is abſolutely incumbent on every individual reſiding within the juriſdiction of the legiſlature of England, to contribute his proportion of money to defray the neceſſary expences of government; becauſe the general and particular intereſts of every free ſociety are intimately connected.

I therefore beg leave to propoſe,

	£.	s.	d.
That Scotland ſhould pay ſix regiments	85,600	17	0
Ireland, two regiments of light horſe and twenty-four of infantry	366,403	8	0
The Weſt India iſlands for the daily proviſion of ſix regiments, at £.51 4 6 per day	18,697	2	6
Carried on	470,701	7	6

	£.	s.	d.
Brought on	470,701	7	6
America for twenty four regiment	342,403	8	0
England for two regiments of light horſe and forty-eight regiments of infantry, except for the daily proviſions of the ſix regiments paid by the Weſt India iſlands	643,109	13	6
Total	1,456,214	9	0

The

The Arrangements of the Stations of the Army.

	Light horſe.	Infantry.
In England	2	30
Scotland	—	6
Ireland	2	24
Gibralter	—	6
Minorca	—	6

The Weſt India Iſlands.

Viz. Granada	1	
St. Vincent	1	
Dominica	1	
Antigua	1	
Jamaica	2	
		6
America	—	24
	—	—
Total	4	102

The MODE of RELIEF.

As there are an hundred and two Regiments of Infantry, I would divide them into ſeventeen Relieves, each Relief being compoſed of ſix Regiments. To proceed as follows.

SIX regiments ſhould march from England into Scotland, on the 15th day of Auguſt in every year; the ſix regiments there quartered, when relieved by thoſe from England, ſhould march to Port Patrick, and there embark for Ireland on the firſt of October.

Six regiments on the Iriſh eſtabliſhment ſhould embark at Cork on the 15th of October, in order to be conveyed to Gibralter; the ſix regiments in that garriſon, when relieved, ſhould be conveyed by the ſame ſhips to Minorca.

The

The ſix regiments in that iſland ſhould be tranſported to the Weſt India iſlands; the ſix regiments there quartered ſhould be ſent to America, where, it is probable, they will arrive about the latter end of April in the following year.

Six of the American regiments ſhould then embark for England, and be landed at Plymputh; from thence they ſhould proceed to London, there remain and do duty for ſix months, and then march towards Scotland.

By proceeding in this manner the officers and ſoldiers will be gradually inured to the ſeveral changes of climate.

By remaining only a ſhort time in each place the ſoldiers will not have the ſame inclination to deſert as at preſent—they will not be liable to thoſe malignant diſorders which have deſtroyed the greater part of all the regiments that ever were quartered in the Weſt India iſlands, &c. &c. &c.

Before

Before I conclude this ſubject, I think it highly neceſſary to recommend, that the foreign relief ſhould be conveyed from place to place by ſome of the forty or fifty gun ſhips of war; two of either will contain a regiment, if the guns of the lower deck are left in dock. I beg leave moſt ſtrenuouſly to urge this matter, becauſe the tranſport ſhips, hired in the ſervice of government for theſe many years paſt, have been ſo old, rotten, and leaky, that the troops on board of moſt of them have been ſcarce able to keep them a-float, by continually pumping from the day on which they embarked to the hour they diſembarked. This is a notorious fact, and is a reflection on government.

The Arrangement of a Regiment of Infantry.

EACH regiment of infantry ſhould be divided into ten companies—Each company, according to this ſyſtem, ſhould conſiſt of a captain, a lieutenant, an enſign, a quarter-maſter-ſerjeant, two ſerjeants, two corporals, two lance corporals, and thirty-ſix ſoldiers; excepting the grenadier and light infantry companies, each of which are to have two lieutenants and no enſign. Subordinate ranks in a regiment are highly neceſſary to create a conſtant emulation, prevent deſertion, qualify a greater number of men to command ſmall parties, &c. &c. The colonel, lieutenant-colonels, adjutant, quarter-maſter, ſerjeant-major, drill-ſerjeants, drum-major, drummers, fifers, and armourers, are not comprized in any company. The field officers are to act for the general, and not for the particular intereſt of a regiment. The ſame definition may be given of the duties of an adjutant and quarter-maſter, in a more

a more circumſcribed degree—As the firſt are the heads to plan, theſe are the heads to execute.—As the ſerjeant-major, drill-ſerjeants, drum-major, drummers, and fifers are under the orders of the adjutant, they ſhould be independent of any company—As the duty of the armourers conſiſts in repairing the arms of the regiment, they alſo ſhould not be appointed to any company; the adjutant ſhould receive the pay of the ſerjeant-major, drill-ſerjeants, drum-major, drummers, fifers, and armourers, and account to them for it; the quarter-maſter ſhould be particularly attentive to the proviſion, quarters, ſtores, ammunition, and cloathing of the regiment, in which he ſhould be aſſiſted by the quarter-maſter-ſerjeant of each company. As very ample pay is given to the adjutant and quarter-maſter, they ſhould not have any other commiſſion—If they are officers of the regiment when appointed to theſe commiſſions, they ſhould preſerve their rank in the regiment, and ſo gradually advance till they obtain that of captain: but they ſhould

reſign

reſign their other commiſſion, that the regiment may always have the number of officers as before propoſed.

If a ſerjeant ſhould be appointed to either of theſe commiſſions, he ſhould take rank next below the youngeſt enſign, and advance in his turn till he has obtained a company.

But this is a very bad meaſure, and by no means to be recommended; the experience of the late war has amply proved that the good ſerjeant ſeldom made a good officer. It was unreaſonable to expect that the man who had not received the education of a gentleman, ſhould act with the dignity becoming a gentleman.

Widows Penſions.

	per year. £.	s.	d.
THE widow of a colonel ſhould be intitled to	60	0	0
Of a lieutenant colonel —	50	0	0
Of a captain ——	40	0	0
Of a lieutenant, adjutant, quarter-maſter, ſurgeon,	30	0	0
Of an enſign, and of a ſurgeon's mate	20	0	0

Non-

Non-commiſſioned Officers, and Soldiers, who have ſerved honeſtly and faithfully for twenty-one Years, or if wounded or diſabled in the Service, ſhould be intitled on their diſcharge,

	£.	s.	d.
A Serjeant-major to —	22	16	3
A drill ſerjeant, and quarter-maſter-ſerjeant }	13	2	6
A ſerjeant —	9	2	6
A corporal, lance corporal, ſoldier }	6	1	8
A drum-major —	9	2	6
A drummer & fifer	6	1	8
An armourer —	9	2	6

CONCLUSION.

I HAVE endeavoured to comprize this ſyſtem in a few words, that it may not be rejected, at leaſt, for prolixity. I have ſo regulated the allowance of the pay and proviſions of the ſoldier, that a ſufficiency, but not a ſuperfluity is given to him. The cloathing is as low as it can, or ought to be reduced; the materials for which ſhould be ſent to the regiments and be there put together; it is comprized in a few articles, that the ſoldier may be cheated as little as poſſible. I have purpoſely omitted to mention any regulation relative to barracks. This is too wiſe an inſtitution to be adopted in this age of prejudice and error. All that remains to be done, and which is incumbent on me to recommend, is, a proviſion for thoſe officers and ſoldiers whoſe intereſt will be affected, if theſe regulations take place. I therefore beg leave, finally, to propoſe, that, the colonels of cavalry, of the troops of horſe and grenadier guards, of the three regiments

regiments of foot guards, may be appointed to the new raiſed regiments. That the majors of infantry may be appointed lieutenant colonels in their reſpective regiments — That the lieutenant-colonels and majors of cavalry, and of the troops of horſe and grenadier guards, may be appointed lieutenant-colonels to the new raiſed regiments; or, in lieu thereof, to be allowed to ſell their right to theſe new commiſſions to the captains of infantry for three thouſand five hundred pounds— That the captains and lieutenants of cavalry, the lieutenants of the troops of horſe and grenadier guards, and the lieutenants of the foot guards, may be appointed captains in the new raiſed regiments; or in lieu thereof to be allowed to ſell their right to theſe new commiſſions for two thouſand pounds, to the lieutenants of the infantry— That the enſigns of the foot guards, the cornets of cavalry, and of the troops of horſe and grenadier guards, may be appointed lieutenants in the new raiſed regiments; or in lieu thereof, to be allowed to ſell their right to theſe new commiſſions for eight hun-

hundred pounds to the enſigns of infantry—That the ſurgeons and mates of the reduced corps may be appointed to the new raiſed regiments.—As there will be the commiſſions of three captains, in each regiment of infantry now in pay, to be diſpoſed of, that one of theſe commiſſions may be given to ſome captain or captain lieutenant on half pay, another to the preſent captain lieutenant in each regiment, and the third to the ſenior lieutenant in each regiment—that a lieutenant from half pay may ſucceed to one of theſe vacancies, and the ſenior enſign in each regiment in the other. As there will be an enſigncy in each regiment now in pay, and two hundred and forty enſigncies to be diſpoſed of in the new raiſed regiments, amounting altogether to three hundred ten; if theſe commiſſions are ſold, each at the price of five hundred pounds, a cheap purchaſe, the money ſo collected will amount to an hundred and fifty-five thouſand pounds; that this money may be appropriated to repay to each chaplain, quarter-maſter of dragoons,

gentleman

gentleman penſioner, officer, and yeoman of the guard, and trooper of horſe guards, the exact ſum that they ſeverally paid for their reſpective employments; but if inſufficient that government may pay the remainder—That the field officers and lieutenant-colonels of the foot guards may remain at the expence of government on their full pay, till provided for in the regiments of infantry, or by ſome civil employment adequate to their pay, if they are willing to accept of it—That the officers of invalids may enjoy their full pay—That the non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers of the invalids may be intitled each to the annual ſum as ſpecified againſt his reſpective rank in the ſuperannuated liſt—That the non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers of the foot guards and of the reduced regiments of cavalry may be incorporated in the new raiſed regiments — That England may furniſh the arms, accoutrements, and ammunition of all the army, pay for the ſtaff officers employed in England, and for the contingencies of forty-

eight

eight regiments of infantry, and for two of light horſe.—That Scotland, Ireland, and America, may pay each its reſpective ſtaff-officers, and contingencies.—That the money ariſing from the pay, proviſion, and cloathing of the non-effective men of each regiment, after deducting the expences of recruiting, and the other contingencies as at preſent allowed, may be applied to the payment of the penſions of officers widows and of ſoldiers, and the reſidue, if any, to be appropriated towards defraying the general contingencies of the army.—That the wives of reduced officers married at the time that this regulation takes place, may be intitled each, on the deceaſe of her huſband, to the penſion ſpecified againſt his rank.

That the corps commanded by colonel O'Hara may remain in that part of Africa where it now is, and may be paid by the African company—And, that the ſerjeant and twelve yeomen of the guard may be provided for in the civil liſt.

THE END.